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MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH SESSION

OF THE

Gray's Creek Colored Association,

HELD WITH THE

MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH,

COLUMBUS CO., N. C.,

Oct. 31st to Nov. 3d, 1872.

RALEIGH, N. C.:
EDWARDS & BROUGHTON, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,
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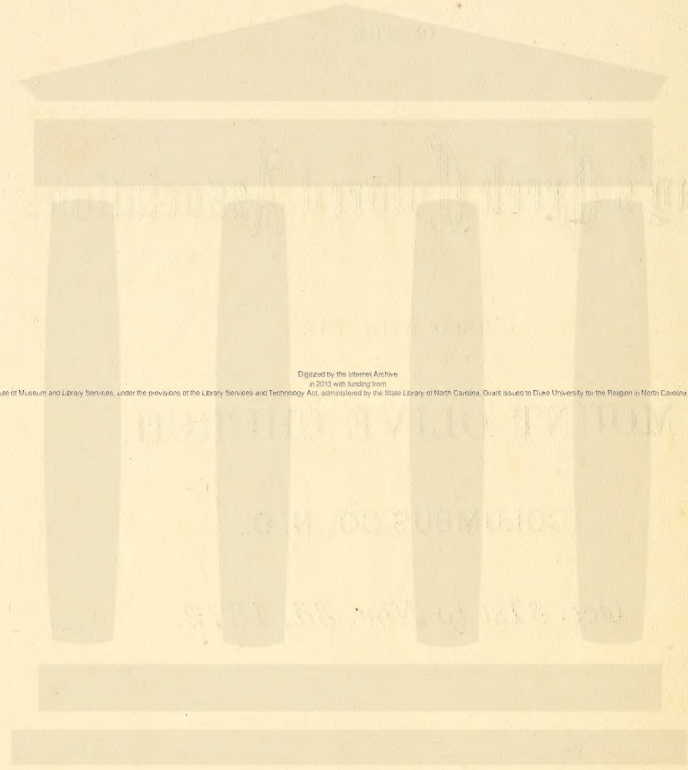

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PROCEEDINGS.

MOUNT OLIVE, Columbus County, N. C.,
Thursday, Oct. 31, 1872.

Introductory discourse was delivered by Elder James Bright from Isaiah lx: 20, "Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself; for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended."

After the lapse of fifteen minutes the Association was called to order by Elder John Croslin, when the meeting was opened by singing: "Try us, O God," &c., and prayer by the Moderator.

Brethren John Morley, Moses Louder and Robert Robeson were appointed a Committee of Finance.

Lettters were then called for and the names of the delegates enrolled.

Then proceeded to the election of officers, viz:

Elder John Croslin, Moderator.

Limas Mims, Secretary.

Elder James Bright, Assistant Clerk.

Elder Samuel Boon, Treasurer.

Invitation was given to visiting and corresponding brethren to take seats with us, whereupon, brother Robert P. Rumley, from Newbern Association, accepted a seat; also, Elder H. Lennon, from Cape Fear Association.

On motion, Elder H. Lennon was requested to aid our meeting in all its proceedings.

Opportunity was then given to newly constituted churches seeking admission to present their letters, when the following were offered and accepted, viz: Swann's Creek, Cumberland

county; Spring Hill and Mt. Moriah, Columbus county; Cedar Grove and Brister Creek, Brunswick county, N. C.

The Pastor and Deacons of this Church were appointed a Committee to supply the stage with preaching during the session of this Association.

Adjourned to to-morrow morning 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder H. Lennon.

FRIDAY MORNING, Nov. 1—9 o'clock.

Elder Willis Haynes opened by singing "Am I a soldier of the cross," &c., and by prayer.

Then called the roll and corrected minutes of yesterday.

Invitation was extended to newly constituted churches, when Pleasant Grove and Pleasant Hill, Robeson county; Gum Swamp and Welch's Creek, Columbus county, and Flag Patch, Horry county, S. C., were admitted to membership in the Association.

Brother James R. Burchett, from Cape Fear Association, was invited to a seat.

The following Committees were then appointed, viz:

On Sabbath Schools.—Samuel Boon, J. M. Whitted and Edward Singletary.

On the Examination and Ordination of Ministers.—Elders J. M. Whitted, S. Boon, J. Bright and Willis Haynes.

On Home Missions.—James Bright, B. L. Gause, M. Louder, N. D. Wooten, and Robert W. Robinson.

On Foreign Missions.—John Croslin, S. Boon, J. M. Whitted, Willis Haynes and S. Gore.

On Ministerial Education.—H. Lennon, John Croslin, S. Boon, J. R. Burchett and Limas Mims.

On Selecting Board of Missions.—J. M. Whitted, John Morley, R. W. Robinson, D. McMillan and S. Boon.

On Periodicals.—Thomas McDonald, Marcus Byrne, H. Singletary, Joe Rich and Isaac Coleman.

A communication from Balcony, requesting Missionary services, was considered and then referred to the Executive Board of Missions.

On motion, the Association agreed to hold its next session with the Church at Welch's Creek, Columbus county, N. C., commencing on Thursday, at 12 o'clock M., before the first Sunday in November, 1873. Elder S. Boon to preach the Introductory Discourse, J. M. Whitted his alternate. Elder James Bright the Missionary Sermon, John Croslin, alternate.

Elder Haynes Lennon having been appointed to occupy the stand at 2 o'clock, P. M., the Association suspended business and attended Divine service, when Elder Lennon addressed the congregation from 2d Thessolonians, 5th chapter, 9th and 10th verses: "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him."

Services very solemn.

Business was again resumed.

A committee, consisting of Brethren Robert P. Rumley, S. Boon, M. McMillan, Wright Pilman and B. L. Gause was appointed to prepare a list of Ministers and their Post Office address.

Ordered, that 600 copies of these minutes be printed and distributed according to the money sent up by the churches.

Adjourned to 9½ o'clock to morrow morning. Prayer by Bro. R. P. Rumley.

SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 2, 1872.

Session opened by singing, " A charge to keep I have," &c., and prayer by Bro. Samuel Boon.

Minutes of yesterday were read.

Elder H. Lennon presented a package of minutes of Cape Fear Association—thanks returned.

The committee on Foreign Missions made their report, and on motion ordered to be appended to the minutes.

On the adoption of the above report, a collection for African Missions was taken up, amounting to thirty-three dollars and forty-two cents, and the Treasurer ordered to forward the same by Elder H. Lennon to the Baptist State Convention.

Report on Education was then read. Brethren Rumley, Louder, Evans and Gore made some pertinent remarks, and the report was ordered to be apended to the minutes.

Brother Reuben Johnson proposed himself as a beneficiary whereupon a general sympathy was manifested, and his case referred to the consideration of the churches for aid.

Sandy Plain Church, Columbus county, presented a letter of dismission from Cape Fear Baptist Association, and was unanimously admitted into fellowship.

Committee on Home Missions reported. Report was accepted and ordered to be appended to the minutes.

Report on Sabbath Schools was then read and approved.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the inhabitants of this vicinity for their very hospitable entertainment of this body.

On motion, Brother Haynes Lennon was requested to transcribe the minutes of this Association for the press, and superintend the distribution of the same among the churches.

Voted the thanks of this body to Elder Lennon for his assistance rendered us during this session.

Committee on examination of applicants for ordination reported. Report accepted.

Called for report of Committee on Finance Report received.

Ordered that the Committee of Finance pay the minute fund into the hands of Elder H. Lennon, and the Mission fund to the Treasurer of the Association.

Ordered, that if a surplus remain after defraying expenses of printing and distributing minutes, that the amount be paid over to Elder John Croslin, and also, if there be not enough of

funds to meet expenses, then Elder John Croslin shall provide for the deficiency.

Committee on Executive Board reported the following names: Elders John Croslin, James Bright, J. M. Whitted, Sharpe Gore, Willis Haynes, Gilbert Monroe, and brethren Harrison Singletary, Luke Hodge and John Morley.

Elders John Croslin, S. Boon and S. Gore reported their ministerial labors for the past year, and were commended for their untiring labors with their charges.

James Tolar, former Treasurer, forwarded $10.87, balance in his hands, which was ordered to be paid to the Treasurer.

Elder J. M. Whitted, Missionary, reported his services. Report ordered to be appended.

Executive Board made an exhibit of their operations for the year, and were commended for their judicious management.

Unanimously agreed that such applicants as passed examination for the gospel ministry, be ordained on to-morrow at the close of the missionary sermon.

Elders James Bright, Samuel Boon, John Croslin, John M. Whitted and Willis Haynes were appointed to conduct the services of ordination.

Ordered, that the Clerk be paid three dollars for his services.

Ordered, that the Articles of Faith, adopted by this Association, be printed with the present minutes.

Voted, that the Sabbath collections be equally divided between Home and Foreign Missions.

Adjourned to time and place above specified. Adjournment to take effect from and after to-morrow's services.

Prayer by Elder Haynes Lennon.

JOHN CROSLIN, Moderator.

Limas Mims, *Clerk.*

Sabbath, November 3d, 1872.

The day was auspicious, and a large concourse in attendance.

Elder Samuel Boon addressed the audience in a serious and earnest manner.

Elder John Croslin followed with a sermon founded on Mark 16 : 15, 16. The discourse was well arranged and impressively delivered. At the close, the following persons, viz.: Alexander Moore, Limas Mims, Gilbert Monroe, Benjamin Baldwin, and Hanson Gore, were set apart to the Gospel Ministry by the "imposition of hands" by the Presbyters appointed for this occasion.

Elder James Bright officiated in the afternoon service to an appreciative audience.

Thus closed the most happy session of this body.

N. B.—The Mission Board not having completed its business, all unfinished matter was referred to its next session, hence the Treasurer is unable to give a correct exhibit for these minutes.

APPENDIX.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The declaration of Holy Writ, that "Thy Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom and endureth throughout all generations," when coupled with the promise made to the Son, "ask of me and I will give thee the heathen for thy inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession," is a sufficient guarantee to every Church and minister to sow the seeds by all watersides with untiring diligence, feeling an earnest solicitude for the salvation of our peculiar race.

Therefore, Resolved, That we go speedily to work for their recovery from their idols and superstitious worship, by giving of our substance to preach to the benighted land of Africa.

Further Resolved, That we co-operate with the Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention in this great work.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN CROSLIN, Ch'm'n.

ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The advantages of education are incalculable. In every department of life it is indispensably necessary to their successful accomplishment. The statesman is a cypher without it. It is equally so in the Church. All admit that the Holy Spirit has much to do in educating the soul in the Grace of God, but the mind has to be cultivated in letters before the man is qualified to communicate the facts in a manner intelligible to the human family. The meet this demand, seven large, well endowed institutions of learning have already been reared for the colored population, giving the colored young man, called of God to preach the Gospel, the facilities of an education at fifty dollars per year of eight months.

Let us avail ourselves of this inestimable offer.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your Committee would most respectfully say that this particular department of christian labor among our race requires at this time our untiring attention. We have abundant means for the work and ample opportunities to prosecute effectually this noble enterprise. Our greatest need under the crisis, is, the devising such judicious measures as will secure the end desired.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES BRIGHT, Ch'm'n.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

Your Committee would most respectfully recommend the taking the *Biblical Recorder*, published at Raleigh, by Bro. John H. Mills, at $2.00 per annum, *The Home and Foreign Journal*, published at Richmond, Va., at 50 cents a year, *The Macedonian and Record*, published at Philadelphia, 530 Arch Street, at 25 cents a year.

Respectfully, THOMAS McDONALD, Ch'm'n.

REPORT OF ELD. J. M. WHITTED, MISSIONARY.

Beloved Brethren: Immediately after my appointment, in August last, I entered upon the work assigned me, and found a greater destitution among them than was supposed, and, withal, a general confused idea of our plan of of operations. Our people are in great want of information, both literary and religious, but seem disposed to co-operate with us when instructed on their duty.

I have travelled fifty-two days, preached twenty-seven sermons, held two prayer meetings, and received twenty-four dollars and twenty-two cents for our Missions.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN M. WHITTED.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee respectfully report that too much attention cannot be given to the encouraging of Sabbath Schools. In point of importance, they are second only to the church itself, and as such, your Committee would respectfully recommend the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1st, That it is the earnest desire of this Association, that every church of this body should have a well conducted Sabbath School, and give it fostering care to the promotion of the same.

Resolved, 2d, That the Pastor of every church of this Association, be requested to address his congregation at least once during the year, upon the benefits and blessings arising from well conducted Sabbath Schools and read before them this report upon the subject.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL ORDINATION.

Brethren Hanson Gore. Limas Mims, Alex'r Moore, Benjamin Baldwin and Gilbert Monroe passed a rigid examination, and are recommended for ordination. Brethren James Todd and Peter Jarrall are recommended to study the word of God more closely, and we hope they may, at an early day, be in readiness for this holy calling.

Respectfully submitted.

LIST OF MINISTERS AND POST OFFICES.

Baldwin, Benjamin	Whiteville,	North Carolina.
Boon, Samuel	Prospect Hall,	" "
Bowman, James	Fayetteville,	" "
Bright, James	Whiteville,	" "
Croslin, John	Prospect Hall,	" "
Gore, Sharpe	Paraway Ferry,	" "
Gore, Hanson	Whiteville,	" "
Gause, Benj. L.	"	" "
Hill, John F.	Wilmington,	" "
Haynes, Willis	Whiteville,	" "
Johnson, M. D.	Wilmington,	" "
Louder, Moses	Little River,	South Carolina.
Mims, Limas	Supply,	North Carolina.
Monroe, Gilbert		" "
Moore, Alex'r	Leesville,	" "
McCoy, S. H.	White Hall,	" "
Robeson, Needham	Abbottsburg,	" "
Whitted, John M.	Prospect Hall,	" "
Woolin, Nelson D.	Dalton,	" "

STATISTICAL TABLE.

COUNTIES AND CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Baptized	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored	Exclud'd	Dismis'd.	Died.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Assoc'n Fund.	Mission Fund.
CUMBERLAND C'NTY.												
Gray's Creek,	Samuel Boon, James Tolar, Marcus Byrne.	3		2	4	16	2			157	3 00	2 50
Swann's Creek,	J. M. Whitted, Mack McNeill, Wm. McEachin.	3	6							28	1 50	3 50
Savannah,	T. McDonald, L. Melvin, Golden Ray.	9	7		1					39	1 00	2 00
BLADEN COUNTY.												
Baldwin's Branch,	Luke Hodge, Geo. Lewis, Redmond McDowell.	11	4							35	1 50	2 20
Bryan Swamp,	Edward Singletary, Harrison Singletary, S. Lennon.	12	3	1	4	1		24	36	60	2 00	10 84
New Hope,	Joe Rich, A. P. Wright, John McMillan.	19					3			217	4 00	7 18
New Light,	John Croslin, Limas Mims, Robt. W. Robinson.	3			3	6	4			104	2 50	2 50
COLUMBUS COUNTY.												
Mount Moriah,	Dollarson Brown, Dollar Brown, Sanco Frink.	6	9							18	2 00	
Mount Olive,	York Williamson, Richard McDougald, Jno. Morley.	7		5	13		1			129	2 50	2 50
Spring Hill,	A. George, I. Pierce, A. B. Best.									28	1 00	1 50
Whiteville,	Ed. George, J. Coleman, G. George.	5	4	2						60	1 25	3 00
Welch's Creek,	Mack D. Baldwin, Coleman Baldwin, Benj. Baldwin.									43	2 81	1 00
Gum Swamp,	James Todd, Peter Jarrall, Ranson Chestmel.	19	8							27	1 50	
Sandy Plains,	Israel Moore, Lewis Moore, Benj. Moore.									56	1 50	5 00
BRUNSWICK C'NTY.												
Brister Creek,	Simeon Bellamy, Isaac Bellamy, Dennis Conner.	21	19							41	1 00	1 00
Cedar Grove,	M. E. Louder, P. M. Bryant, Thomas Brown	6	22							36	1 50	
Pleasant View,	Sharp Gore, L. Frink.	25	12		6		2			103	2 50	9 51
ROBESON COUNTY.												
Pleasant Grove,	Manual McMillan, David McMillan, Peter Glover.									27	2 00	2 00
Pleasant Hill,	Alex'r Moore, Wright Pitman, Frank Atkinson.	24	6		9		2			269	1 55	
HORRY COUNTY.												
Flag Patch,	Geo. Holt, James Gore, Kelly Hickman.	27	3							30	75	
		200	103	10	40	23	14	24	36	1,507	$37 36	$56 23

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead—the Father, Son and Holy Gnost. Gen i: 26. 2 Cor. xiii: 14.

II. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. iii: 16.

III. We believe in the doctrine of eternal, particular Election. Acts xiii: 48. Romans viii: 28, 30; xi: 5, 7. 2 Tim. ii: 10. 1 Pet. i: 2. John vi: 37, 44.

IV. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin. Ps. liv: 5.

V. We believe in the doctrine of man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, of his own free-will ability. Eph. ii: 1—10.

VI. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Gal. ii: 16. Rom. iii: 24; v: 9.

VII. We believe that God's Elect shall be called, converted and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Eph. i: 4—7. 2 Thess. ii: 13, 14. Tim. i: 9.

VIII. We believe that the Saints shall persevere in grace, and shall never fall finally away. John x: 28, 29; xiii: 1. 1 Pet. i: 5.

IX. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances; and that the true mode of Baptism is Immersion. Matt. iii: 16. Acts viii: 38, 39. Rom. vi: 4. Eph. iv: 5. Col. ii: 12.

X. We believe in the Resurrection of the Dead and a general Judgment. 1 Cor. ch. xv. Rev. xx: 11—15.

XI. We believe that the punishment of the wicked is everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous are eternal. Matt. xxv: 46. Rev. xx: 12—15.

XII. We believe that Ordained Ministers, or such as have come under the imposition of hands by a regularly authorized Presbytery only, have a right to administer the ordinances. Acts xiii: 3. 1 Tim. iv: 14. 2 Tim. i: 6.